

SPONSOR'S

VIEW:

Rep. Presnal said the Governor's office did not understand the bill and called the veto "unfortunate." Under HB 149, ERS could take bids every year, he said, but could also keep a contract for as long as six years. He said the current system had already eliminated competition, noting that the most recent request for bids had netted ERS only one bid. "I guess the message never did get across," Presnal said. "It's just a case of falling through the cracks in the Governor's office."

NOTES:

The HSG analyzed HB 149 in the April 25 Daily Floor Report.

Juror pay in Harris County  
(HB 186, by Green)

DIGEST:

The bill would have permitted the commissioners court in a county with more than two million residents (Harris County) to establish a special juror-payment account. This would have required the recommendation of the majority of the district judges in the county. The district clerk would have used the account to pay jurors without a countersignature from the county treasurer or auditor.

GOVERNOR'S

REASONS

FOR VETO:

By entrusting all county funds to the county treasurer current law provides an excellent system of checks and balances. This bill would not provide enough safeguards in removing control of certain county funds from the hands of the official who was elected for that purpose.

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VIEW

"This was a fight between the district clerk and the county treasurer," according to Rep. Green, "and the Governor chose to side with the county treasurer." Green said he was disappointed because the bill would have speeded up payment to jurors and saved money for the taxpayers of Harris County.

NOTES:

The analysis of HB 186 appeared in the March 3 Daily Floor Report.